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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /008 R

66607
DRAFTED BY: EA/ANP:LJMOSER:RLW
APPROVED BY: EA/ANP:LJMOSER
EA/P:AROSEN
---------- 013538
R 211557Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165662

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE FROM SAIGON ON AUG 73, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15010

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SEATO, XC, VS
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO GVN TO ATTEND SEATO COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) BANGKOK 12897; (B) SAIGON 14942

1. WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM REFTEL THAT NO INVITATION HAS YET BEEN SENT TO THE GVN TO ATTEND THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. WE ASSUME THAT THIS OMISSION WILL BE RECTIFIED AND AN INVITATION SENT IN THE NEAREST FUTURE.

2. WE WERE EVEN MORE SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM REFTEL THAT THERE IS SOME THOUGHT OF NOT INVITING THE GVN THIS YEAR. WE CANNOT CONCEIVE WHAT REASON THERE COULD BE FOR MAKING SUCH A RECOMMENDATION. THE GVN HAS ATTENDED SEATO COUNCIL MEETINGS (AS AN OBSERVER) SINCE AT LEAST 1965. LAST YEAR FOREIGN MINISTER LAM REPRESENTED THE GVN AT THE CANBERRA MEETING AND GAVESA REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN VIET-NAM. IT NEED
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HARDLY BE POINTED OUT THAT FURTHER DELAY IN ISSUING THE

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GVN'S INVITATION WILL EMBARRASS US AND LEAD TO DEEP SUSPICIONS AMONG VIETNAMESE LEADERS THAT WILL HARM OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN US CONSTANCY DURING THIS DIFFICULT CEASEFIRE PERIOD.

3. IF WHAT WE SEE IN THE PRESS ABOUT CHANGING SEATO'S IMAGE IS TRUE THEN THERE IS EVEN MORE REASON NOT TO EXCLUDE VIETNAM FROM CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION WHICH GVN HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED.

4. THIS IS NOT A DECISION TO BE MADE BY AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AND LOWER LEVELS OF DEPARTMENT. IT IS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE IN ITS LONG-RANGE IMPLICATIONS TO BE DECIDED AT HIGHER LEVELS.
MARTIN
UNQUOTE ROGERS

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